

administration's budget is \$1.2 billion short of the amount that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs said is necessary simply to maintain current services.

In the years ahead, we must meet the obligations that we are making to these tens of thousands of selfless Americans. They will need assistance to recover from injuries sustained on the battlefield. They deserve assistance with education, housing and building a better life. Especially in light of the sacrifices they have already made, they do not deserve having to bear the additional burden of financing this outrageous financial debt.

We must put our financial house back in order. The \$318 billion we are paying in interest on the debt alone would fund all of these needs many times over. It would help sustain family farms and rural economies, build new schools for all who need them, and keep our Nation's promise to our veterans.

I hope that we can bring common sense back to our Nation's budgeting process. We must reinstate meaningful budget enforcement tools such as the pay-as-you-go rule proposed by the Blue Dogs and by which this House previously abided. We must focus on middle class tax relief, paying down our Nation's debt and balancing our Nation's budget in a way that protects our key priorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY AND HALLIBURTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 3 months, the Bush administration has flatly refused to cooperate with the United Nations-sanctioned auditors examining the contracts provided to companies like Halliburton for services in Iraq.

President Bush's government has withheld pertinent information from the U.N.'s International Advisory and Monitoring Board which was specifically tasked to ensure that Iraq's oil revenues would be managed responsibly during the United States occupation and for as long as American and other companies work on reconstruction jobs in Iraq.

Halliburton, my colleagues may remember, is the Texas-based oil company that has received over \$1 billion in lucrative contracts from the United States for the reconstruction of Iraq, and they have never had to place a single bid for these contracts.

Years ago, the Pentagon established the practice of allowing private companies to bid on various projects, rewarding the most qualified company willing to complete a given project for the lowest price with a highly sought after government contract.

Mr. Speaker, this practice was good for American companies, while, through competition, also kept prices down, ensuring that American taxpayers did not get fleeced in the process.

The Pentagon, under the shoddy supervision of the Bush White House, has all but disregarded this process in 4 short years. Not only has the Bush administration given rise to the shameful new policy of the no-bid contract, it has also rebuffed any and all attempts by international organizations to provide oversight to those companies that are the recipients of these no-bid contracts.

My colleagues may also recall that Vice President CHENEY is the former CEO of Halliburton. In the months since the beginning of the Iraq War, Vice President CHENEY's former company, from which he still receives nearly \$200,000 a year in deferred income, has been nothing if not greedy.

CHENEY's company, Halliburton, overcharged the U.S. Government for the price of gasoline imported into Iraq from Kuwait. CHENEY's company, Halliburton, charged the United States Government for thousands of meals for soldiers that were never provided. Yet the Bush administration has done everything in its power to ensure that CHENEY's company, Halliburton, gets whatever it wants or whatever it does not want.

In this case, Halliburton does not want international auditors to get their hands on documents that stipulate how Iraq's oil revenues have been spent or even how much oil has been processed. Halliburton does not want international auditors to learn that meters have never been installed on Iraq's Persian Gulf loading platforms, allowing for the exportation of an unlimited and unaccounted amount of crude oil.

As a result, in addition to the billions of dollars in no-bid contracts, Halliburton may be making millions of dollars more off of the oil that rightfully belongs to the Iraqi people, but

then this is the same company that provided fake meals to American troops and overcharged our government for Kuwaiti oil.

There has to be a better way, because the Bush doctrine of rewarding cronies at the expense of the American taxpayer has proven to be an utter failure. We need to be smart about how we choose companies to rebuild countries like war-torn Iraq.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, which is legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism.

The wonderful organizations Physicians for Social Responsibility, Friends Committee on National Legislation and Women's Action for New Directions helped me in crafting this legislation.

In this day and age, terrorism is an international problem, and so it makes sense that the fight against terrorism should involve the international community. That is why SMART security calls for working closely with the U.N. and NATO to achieve its goals. Only by actively involving other nations in this fight can we hope to prevent future acts of terrorism.

The Bush administration likes to talk the talk when it comes to national security, but if they want to walk the walk, they will stop rewarding their buddies with no-bid contracts, while protecting these same buddies from international auditors. If they want to be truly smart about defending our country, they will be smart enough to realize that national security depends on international cooperation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORIAM OF JUANITA RABOUIN PHILLIPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and memorialize a great American, Juanita R. Phillips, a retired educator in the St. Louis public schools. She died of natural causes on Thursday, July 1, 2004, 3 months shy of celebrating her 100th birthday.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26, 1904, 3 months, as I said,